Improving use of herbal medicines

† 3494. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether medical treatment is done in the country by using medicines based on herbs;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that there is an ample scope for improvement in this system of medicine;

(c) if so, whether Government have assessed the scope of improvement in this regard; and

(d) if so, the scope of improvement in the prevailing situation assessed to be brought about?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERM A]: (a) Medicinal Plants are largely used for the manufacture of Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathic drugs.

(b) Yes, sir.

(c) and (d) To augment the availability of medicinal plants, the scheme for development of medicinal plants garden and agro-techniques are under implementation. The Ministry of Environment and Forests are implementing scheme for conservation of medicinal plants. In order to coordinate activities relating to Conservation, Cultivation, Marketing etc., of medicinal plants, a Medicinal Plants Board is proposed to be set up.

In order to develop and propagate ISM and H, this department has taken steps to strengthen educational institutions, standardization of drugs, quality control, research, availability of raw material and propagation through Information Education and Communication (IEC).

Contagious diseases in Assam

3495. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the health hazards to the tea gardens' population and areas of Assam posed by contagious diseases like Malaria,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Cholera, Dysentry, Gastroenteritis, Viral Fever etc. every year and about the death toll due to these diseases; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures have been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERM A]: (a) As per surveys conducted, the major diseases prevalent in the tea garden population in Assam are diarrheal diseases, malaria and other vector-borne diseases. Specific figures regarding death toll due to above diseases in tea gardens alone are not available.

(b) The following remedial steps have been taken to control the diseases:

(1) The National Anti-malaria Programme is being implemented all over the country, including Assam to control Malaria and other vector-borne diseases. Apart from primary health care services delivered by State/UT Goyemment(s), the tea garden authorities also have the health infrastructure for rendering health care delivery to the tea garden population. These health care services are also supplemented by the State Helath authorities by deputing medical teams at the time of outbreaks and also by providing requisite services as per need.

(2) Epidemiological investigation of diarrheal diseases in tea gardens and adjoining areas of Assam have been carried out and the State Government and tea garden authorities are assisted in training of doctors and para-medical staff for management of diarrheal diseases. Besides, community directed health education camps are held in tea gardens for spreading awareness on communicable diseases.

National Family Welfare Programme

3496. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to integrate the Indian Systems of Ayurveda and Unani medicines into the National Family Welfare Programme is under the consideration of Government;

(b) whether the Ninth India Population Project with World Bank assistance is also pending with Government;

(c) if so, the details of the above two proposals;

(d) whether Government would clear these proposals; and